

REMARKS

The present application was filed on March 27, 2000 with claims 1-88. Claims 50-76 and 83-88 are non-elected claims responsive to a restriction requirement, and are canceled herein. Claims 1-49 and 77-82 are currently pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow.

With regard to the objections to claims 10, 25 and 33-49, Applicants have amended these claims in a manner which is believed to overcome the objections.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 23, now canceled. Claim 1 as amended, and its associated dependent claims, are believed to be allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter.

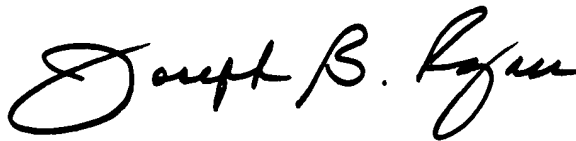
Independent claim 77 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 80, now canceled. Claim 77 as amended, and its associated dependent claims, are believed to be allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 33-49 were indicated as being allowable if amended to overcome the above-noted objection. As indicated previously, the objection is believed to be overcome, and these claims are accordingly believed to be allowable.

Allowable dependent claims 19 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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